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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 26**

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Jeff Steinborn**

**A JOINT MEMORIAL**

**REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE THE  
INTERIM "BORDER SECURITY AND BORDER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE".**

**WHEREAS, homeland security issues have focused attention  
on border crossings and the ease of entry into the United  
States; and**

**WHEREAS, New Mexico counties and local communities that  
share a border with Mexico play a critical role in supporting  
federal law enforcement efforts and require financial support;  
and**

**WHEREAS, immigrant labor plays a vital role in New  
Mexico's economy, and border security efforts can have an  
adverse economic effect without new immigrant employment  
policies; and**

**WHEREAS, unregulated numbers of undocumented immigrants**

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1 may have an effect on the infrastructure and financial  
2 resources of New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, there are significant public health issues that  
4 impact New Mexico as a result of the state's proximity to  
5 Mexico and the cross-border travel of New Mexico residents;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico's border with Mexico is situated on a  
8 vital environmental corridor for species migration routes and  
9 in an area that is the habitat of unique animal and plant  
10 species that can be impacted by border security efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, many lives are lost during illegal entry into  
12 New Mexico from Mexico, and border security and immigration  
13 policies can play a role in decreasing this loss of life; and

14 WHEREAS, federal, state and local border security efforts  
15 must be coordinated with traditional ranching and agricultural  
16 activity located on the border with Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, complex border issues and federal, state and  
18 local attention to New Mexico's border security efforts with  
19 Mexico mandate involvement by the New Mexico legislature;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be  
22 requested to appoint an interim "border security and border  
23 affairs committee" to receive testimony; to study border  
24 issues, including security, health and environmental concerns,  
25 traditional ranching and agricultural border commerce and

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1 human rights; and to recommend appropriate actions needed to  
2 address relevant related issues; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this interim committee report  
4 its findings and make its recommendations to the legislature  
5 by January 1, 2009; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative  
8 council.

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